

Claims

It is claimed:

1. A computer program product for use on a computer system including one or more storage devices and a display device, said product comprising: (i) a software application, (ii) a database embedded in said software application, and (iii) a computer-executable set of instructions for generating a graphical user interface on said display device, the graphical user interface including (a) a first display portion showing said one or more storage devices, (b) a second display portion showing free space available for use by said database on said one or more storage devices, and (c) a third display portion comprising an editable field for receiving a user-defined space allocation value, whereby a user can set a maximal amount of space usable by said database.
2. The product of claim 1, wherein at least one of said storage devices comprises an optical or magnetic disk drive.
3. The product of claim 1, wherein said embedded database comprises a relational database configured to store (i) DNA sequence data, (ii) protein sequence data, or (iii) both DNA sequence data and protein sequence data.
4. The product of claim 1, further comprising a second set of computer-executable instructions defining an installation routine whereby said program product is installed upon said computer system, and wherein said graphical user interface is generated in the course of said installation routine.
5. The product of claim 1, further comprising a second set of computer-executable instructions for monitoring, while said program is running, space usage of said one or more storage devices, and generating a second graphical user interface, said second graphical user interface including a first display portion showing space usage on said one or more storage devices, and a second display portion comprising an editable field for receiving a user-defined space allocation value, whereby a user can change the maximal amount of space usable by said database.
6. The product of claim 5, wherein said second graphical user interface is generated while said program is running, upon said space usage reaching a predetermined threshold.
7. The product of claim 5, wherein said database stores a plurality of data types, and wherein said first display portion of said second graphical user interface shows space usage for

each of said data types, individually; and wherein said second display portion of said second graphical user interface is configured to receive a user-defined space allocation value for each of said data types, individually.

8. The product of claim 1, further comprising a second set of computer-executable instructions for monitoring, while said program is running, space usage of said one or more storage devices, and generating a space-usage warning on said display device, when the space usage reaches a predetermined threshold.

9. The product of claim 1, further comprising a second set of computer-executable instructions for monitoring, while said program is running, space usage of said one or more storage devices, and automatically adjusting, by a preset quantity, the maximal amount of space usable by said database, when the space usage reaches a predetermined threshold.

10. The product of claim 9, wherein said database stores a plurality of data types, and further wherein the adjusting is done per data type stored in the database.

11. The product of claim 10, wherein the adjustment is recorded in a memory or storage such that it is traceable.

12. The product of claim 9, further comprising a third set of computer-executable instructions for generating a second graphical user interface including an editable field permitting a user to override said preset quantity.

13. An interface executed by programmed instructions on a general purpose computer; the general purpose computer including a memory for holding the programmed instructions, an input device for supplying input information for interaction with the programmed instructions, and a display device for displaying information created by the programmed instructions and the input information; said interface operating in conjunction with an underlying database embedded in an associated computer software product, wherein said interface comprises: a first display portion showing one or more storage devices accessible by said computer, a second display portion showing free space available for use by said database on said one or more storage devices, and a third display portion comprising an editable field for receiving a user-defined space allocation value, whereby a user can set a maximal amount of space usable by said database.

14. A storage space management system, comprising: (a) a display; (b) a processor operatively connected to said display; (c) an input device operatively connected to the processor; and (d) a memory having computer software operative by the processor, said software including: a database embedded therein, computer-executable instructions for generating a graphical user

interface on said display, the graphical user interface including a first display portion showing one or more available storage devices, a second display portion showing free space available for use by said database on said one or more storage devices, and a third display portion comprising an editable field for receiving a user-defined space allocation value, whereby a user can set a maximal amount of space usable by said database.

15. A storage space management system, comprising: (1) a display, (2) a processor operatively coupled to said display; (3) an input device operatively connected to the processor; (4) a memory operatively coupled to said processor, (5) one or more storage devices adapted for communication with said memory, and (6) software, in one or both of said memory and said storage devices, said software comprising a host application and a database embedded in said host application, said software further comprising computer-executable instructions for (i) generating and displaying upon said display a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface including a first display portion showing one or more available storage devices, and a second display portion showing free space available for use by said database on said one or more storage devices, (ii) eliciting and receiving from a user a space allocation value, and (ii) setting a maximal amount of space usable by said database equal to said space allocation value.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein said host application is a life-sciences software application.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein said embedded database comprises a relational database configured to store (i) DNA sequence data, (ii) protein sequence data, or (iii) both DNA sequence data and protein sequence data.

18. A method for management of space on one or more storage devices of a computer system, said method comprising:

during an installation routine, whereby a user installs on said computer system a software application having a relational database embedded therein:

- (i) determining an amount of unused space available to said database on said storage devices,
- (ii) presenting said amount to a user via a graphical user interface on a display of said computer system;
- (iii) receiving from said user a user-defined allocation of space to make available to said embedded database; and
- (iv) creating one or more database files on said storage space, having a maximal size based on said user-defined allocation.

19. A method for management of space on one or more storage devices of a computer system, said method comprising:

while a software application is running on said computer system, said software application including an embedded database having an upper size limit:

- (i) determining an amount of unused space available to said database on said storage devices,
- (ii) presenting said amount to a user via a graphical user interface on a display of said computer system; and
- (iii) increasing said upper size limit.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said increasing is carried out upon said amount reaching a predetermined threshold.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein step (ii) further comprises presenting a user-editable field to said user and receiving from said user a user-defined space allocation value, which value is then used to establish said upper size limit.